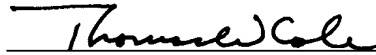


**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-11 and adds new claims 12-23.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas W. Cole

Registration No. 28,290

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128  
(202) 585-8000